



Worldwide Talent Contest winners named; 27 make 2005 Tops In Blue troupe

The 2005 Tops In Blue troupe is almost complete. Air Force Entertainment and Air Force Services Agency announced the names of 27 new performers, all of whom competed in the Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, March 7 through 14.

See story, Pages 8 and 9



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\$8.6M youth center on Lackland horizon

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

They (whoever they are) say good things happen to people who wait. For Lackland Air Force Base, Texas youth, their patience will pay off with a new state-of-the-art home.

Next month three vacated housing units along Selfridge Street, across from the commissary, are scheduled to be razed clearing the way for the Gateway's newest skyline addition – an \$8.6 million youth center.

As a Non-Appropriated Funds project it required an internal needs evaluation package forwarded to the Air Education and Training Command then to the Air Force Services Agency. The project has been on the table 13 years.

"I've been submitting the package every year since 1992," 37th Services Division Family Programs Flight Chief Marge Green said. "In '97 it was the number one project in the command, but, that was a down year financially for the entities that put money into that fund."



The present Lackland Youth Center will become the Family Child Care Office

when the new \$8.6M facility is complete. Courtesy photo

Ms. Green said the project has always received base leadership support. But the turning point came when then 37th Training Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Fred Van Valkenburg Jr., went to bat for the project and hit a home run.

The general recognized how much a new facility was needed and invited the Air Force Board to a briefing given by Ms. Green.

The Air Force Board then urged AETC Commander, Gen. Don Cook, to back the effort. General Van Valkenburg was tireless throughout, seeking major command and congressional support to get the project moving.

Once the more than 34-thousand square foot youth center featuring two gymnasiums is complete, it'll be shared with the Lackland Independent School District. When school is in session LISD students can use the new youth center gyms. In return, youth center members can use the school gym and cafeteria in the summer. Plus when the school is closed, its new library and computer lab areas will be accessible to youth center programs. Sharing facilities will help offset the LISD doubling in

size resulting from the increase in Lackland housing.

As for the current youth facilities, the Kelly Field Youth Center, which belongs to the Greater Kelly Development Association, will be returned to them. The small Teen Center, built in the 1950s with a 15-year life expectancy, will be torn down.

The present youth center will become the Family Child Care Office, which moves from the second floor of Mitchell Hall. The office has a renting closet providers can borrow from. They can choose from nearly \$300 thousand in items, including cabinets, outdoor playground gear and more. The single-floor youth center will make transporting those items much more convenient. It will be large enough where half can be used by providers to do daytime group programs that officials expect will greatly enhance the Family Child Care Program.

Lackland youth are scheduled to move into their new center in April 2006.

"It'll be the culmination of a dream," Ms. Green said with a smile.

News & Views

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ACC sets NAF Transformation pace

By Leslie Abbott
NAF Transformation director

Air Combat Command continues to move out on pre-implementation actions to ensure their bases are ready for NAF Transformation. Mike Teal, ACC Deputy Director, and Diane Campbell, ACC Chief, Resource Management Division, are working hard to ensure all requirements for a successful implementation are completed well in advance. Their efforts and ground breaking initiatives will pave the way for follow-on major command implementations, as they have lived the "lessons learned" well in advance.

Mr. Teal said, "We decided to visit each base well in advance of NAF-T implementation to 'lay down the marker' and to let our bases know ACC fully supports the initiative."

"We felt a commitment to Air Force Services that as the lead MAJCOM we needed to be actively involved to ensure its success," Ms. Campbell said.

As they visit each base, they brief the mission support group commander, senior Services management personnel, activity managers, flight chiefs, and the NAF accounting office staff. They schedule separate sessions for the flight chiefs and activity managers and the NAF AO personnel to enable them to better understand the impact NAF-T will have in their respective areas. Included in the overall briefing to flight chiefs and managers is an explanation of what NAF-T is, how it came about, what it will and will not change in their jobs, when it will be implemented at that respective base and other follow-on initiatives planned to further enhance timeliness of financial reporting and access to financial information.

"The sessions with base personnel give them an opportunity to provide accurate information that clears up many misconceptions about what NAF-T is and what it will do for the bases," said Ms. Campbell.

By taking ownership of the initiative within ACC, Mr. Teal and

Ms. Campbell both believe the three-to-four-hour sessions they have spent with each group at their bases has cleared up much confusion about NAF-T, dispelled rumors, clearly laid out management responsibilities in taking ownership of the initiative and how they can ensure its success.

"We have found the bases to be more aware and comfortable with the upcoming change after we visit," Ms. Campbell said.

"While Air Force Services has more to work on in Transformation, we needed to start somewhere and centralizing NAF accounting and payroll coupled with replacements of our antiquated systems is a good start," said Mr. Teal.

Both agree that overall, their bases are feeling good about NAF-T and see the benefits of moving forward with the initiative. Mr. Teal and Ms. Campbell believe other MAJCOM's could follow their example of visiting their bases in advance of deployment as communication and exchange of feedback will set the tone for success.

First lady praises troops, families in Germany

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

For U.S. troops fighting the war on terror, "heroism with a human touch is part of the mission," first lady Laura Bush told troops and their families at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, during a recent visit.

Mrs. Bush traveled to Kaiserslautern, the largest American military community outside the United States, to thank troops and their families for their contributions to U.S.

and world security. Later in the day, she visited a high school in Wiesbaden and told students, most of them children of U.S. service members, that they too are serving their country with courage and resiliency.

The first lady held a luncheon with spouses of deployed troops. The luncheon was catered by the Ramstein Officers Club staff at Ramstein's Cannon Hotel.

"The most amazing thing about our men and women in uniform," Mrs. Bush said, "is that even as they fight

to defeat terror, they still have an enormous capacity to extend the hand of friendship and compassion to people who desperately want a better life."

At the high school, Mrs. Bush said she was proud of the children of U.S. service members.

"You don't fly jets or wear uniforms, but as the children of our military, you serve too," she said. "The courage with which you do so is an inspiration to all of us."

Project CHEER adds spice

By Mandy Smith-Nethercott
USAFE Services

More than 46,000 Airmen throughout U.S. Air Force in Europe participated in at least one of 455 high-energy Project CHEER events in November and December 2004.

Project CHEER, which stands for Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation for single and unaccompanied Airmen, runs annually from November through March to provide additional support to Airmen ages 18-25 during the winter months and holidays.

Base Project CHEER activities range from all-night movie marathons to board game nights, to Xbox tournaments, to MASH-themed parties.

Buses are regularly scheduled to take groups to view the sights and

natural wonders of Europe, and many facilities provide special discounts or bonus values exclusively available to the Project CHEER target audience.

"The goal is to give folks the opportunity to have some fun, and perhaps make friends with others who are feeling the distance from the people who are special to them," said USAFE Services Director, Col. Frank Pombar.

USAFE Project CHEER programs are offered to supplement those conducted by each USAFE base.

"Headquarters Services is proud to offer several command programs like Fitness Clue, Xbox challenges, the 8-Ball Pool Shark Shootout Tournament, Cosmic Bowling and Fitness Survivor," he said.

More than 10,000 USAFE Airmen enjoyed free movies, popcorn and a

soda at Army, Air Force Exchange Service theatres during Project Cheer's Merry Movie Magic program during the holidays.

"We've had phenomenal support from sponsors," said Mandy Smith-Nethercott, USAFE Project CHEER point of contact. "We have a lot of prizes to give away, including a flat screen TV, loads of DVDs, digital cameras, board games and Vacation Club certificates."

Airman 1st Class Sean Reynolds, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron, has participated in CHEER events the past year.

"I think the Project CHEER program offers a lot to our single Airmen in the dorms. It gives us something to do when we are lonely or missing our family and here at Spangdahlem (Air Base, Germany)," he said.

Chili's opens at Kadena, Ramstein

Air Force Clubs, Kadena Air Base, Japan and Ramstein AB, Germany Services Squadrons have partnered to deliver the first two Chili's Grills on military installations. This initiative started approximately six years ago, when Air Force Services recognized the market need to bring name brand casual dining to the Air Force.

After a lengthy selection process,

Brinker International was chosen to partner with Air Force Clubs to bring national brand casual restaurants to the Air Force.

Chili's Grill was selected because of the brand strength, the diversity and popularity of the menu, as well as Chili's successful track record in supporting its global franchise partners, according to Frank Black, Chief of Air

Force Clubs. "It's exciting to see our combined efforts come to fruition with the Kadena and Ramstein openings, and we are looking forward to bringing Chili's and other Brinker brands to more Air Force bases in the future," he said. "Bottom line, it's all about working together to serve the troops and their families."

The Kadena Chili's was the first to open in Japan in October 2003 and the first national-branded casual

restaurant to operate on any Air Force installation. The 5,500 square foot establishment has seating for more than 200 guests and employs more than 100 people, affectionately referred to as "ChiliHeads."

Chili's not only brings a taste of hometown America to everyone stationed on Okinawa, it is one of the highest grossing Chili's franchises in the world.

The first week sales exceeded \$100,000.

The Ramstein AB Chili's, which was incorporated into the new 47,995 square foot Enlisted Club, opened Oct. 1, 2004 and immediately set the all-time opening-day sales record for Chili's anywhere at \$22,745.85.

Other Chili's are under design at Osan AB, Korea and Yokota AB, Japan. Additionally, a Romano's Macaroni Grill is under design for the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center.

Air Force establishes Pet Friendly Program



Photo by Ian Brittan

By Lt. Col. Kerri Cole
Air Force Services
Agency

Temporary living facilities in the Air Force are going to the dogs. And the cats, as well.

One of the goals in Air Force Lodging is to stay "in-line" with Industry standards while targeting to the specific needs of our military travelers and their families. Whether renovating facilities, upgrading technologies or improving our overall customer service efforts, our ultimate goal is to provide a comfort-

able setting for our customers, making their stay in our facilities as pleasant as possible.

Our most recent customer service effort provides for customers to have their cats and dogs stay with them in their TLF unit. Air Force Lodging operations are now allowing pets in their TLFs at the discretion of the installation's wing commander. After several Air Force Lodging operations successfully tested this program over the past few years, and comparisons to industry standards

were accomplished, the best of these programs were captured to define a Pet Friendly Air Force Inns program worldwide.

While defining a worldwide program, discretion is left to each wing commander on the number of units to be offered as "Pet Friendly," taking into consideration customer demand, kenneling availability on-base as well as off-base, layout of the facility, etc. Up to 25 percent of the base's TLFs may be designated as "Pet Friendly." Guests may have up to two

pets, cats or dogs only, in their TLF. Strict cleaning standards, separation of Pet Friendly units from non-pet units to minimize noise, as well as provisions for

handling pet wastes are all detailed in program guidelines located on our website at <http://www-p.afsv.af.mil/LD/Documents/GuestPetPolicyAgreement.pdf>



For more info

For more information on this subject, contact 1st Lt. Michael Mitchell or 2nd Lt. Billy Graham at (210) 652-8875 or DSN 487-8875.



Winners named in 2004 AF Teen, Family Talent Contest

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency

First, second and third place winners in 15 categories in the 2004 Teen & Family Talent Contest have been selected by Air Force Services Agency.

First place winners are: Parent and Youth, Preston and Mary Arnold, U.S. Air Force Academy, Col.; Husband and Wife, Juan and Julie Sanchez, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Children ages 3-5 Solo or Group, Sterling Elliott, Langley AFB, Va.; Children ages 6-8 Solo or Group, Justine Elliott, Langley AFB, Va.; Preteen ages 9-12 Solo, Brendon Elliott, Langley AFB, Va.; Preteen ages 9-12 Group, Alina and Alex Hauter, Osan Air Base, Korea; Teen ages 13-15 Solo, Amanda Rounds, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Teen ages 13-15 Instrumental, Bennett Lumban, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Teen age 13-15 Solo Performance/Specialty Act, Danielle Turner, Nellis AFB, Nev.; Teen ages 13-15 Group Act, Nicholas, Katherine and Damian Ballester, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Teen ages 16-18 Solo (Vocal) Act, Brittany Costa, Maxwell/Gunter AFB, Ala.; Teen ages 16-18 Solo (Instrumental) Act, Andrew Willoughby, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Teen ages 16-18 Solo (Performance/Specialty) Act, Hilary Aljueseva, Lackland AFB, Texas; Teen ages 16-18 (Group) Act, Julie Holder, James Slade, Whitley Joyner and Monic McFadden, Andersen AFB, Guam; and Family, The Elliott Family, Langley AFB, Va.

First place Air Force winners will be invited to perform with Tops In

Blue, the Air Force's entertainment troupe that provides free, high-energy, 90-minute musical extravaganzas to military forces stationed around the globe. They get to share the stage when the team visits the winner's base. First, second and third place winners in each category receive recognition awards.

More than 300 entries from 58 bases were submitted, an increase over last year.

"I went into almost complete shell-shock," said Brittany Costa, winner in the Teen ages 16-18 Solo Vocal category, "but as soon as it sunk it, I became extremely excited."

Ms. Costa, daughter of Lt. Col. John Costa at Maxwell AFB, Ala., has been performing since she was 7 years old and sang "On My Father's Wings" in the competition.

Danielle Turner won the Teen ages 13-15 solo competition with a ballet performance titled "The Fly."

"I entered my daughter because I am so proud of her and wanted to share her talent with my Air Force Family," said her mother, Master Sgt. Laurie Haniuk from Nellis AFB, Nev. "I think it's wonderful for the Air Force to have programs that recognize the children of our service members."

Ms. Turner, who has been dancing for 10 years, was a category winner in the Air Force Teen Talent Contest last year and got to perform with Tops In Blue when they performed at Lackland AFB, Texas.

The Capt. Garth Elliott family won in four separate categories. Sterling Elliott, 5 years old, won Solo

Instrumental ages 3-5 for his "jazzy" rendition of Bach minuets on the cello; Justine Elliott, 8 years old, won Solo Instrumental ages 6-8 for her Concerto in A Minor by Vivaldi on the violin; Brendon Elliott, 10 years old, won Solo Preteen Instrumental for his violin performance of Sonata No. 1 by Handel; and the Elliotts won the Family category for their instrumental arrangement of Palladin's Diamonds.

According to Danielle Weems-Elliott, the family's mother and musical arranger, "Elliott was able to read music before he could even read words."

"Justine could play 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' while still in diapers," she continued. "Brendon began playing violin at age 3. When people hear him perform, they often refer to him as a prodigy, but we just think he is a hard worker. The Elliott Quartet is made up of Sterling, Justine, Brendon and me."

"Winning helped to improve our kids' confidence level and has been a big motivation for entering each year," she said.

The trio of Nicholas, Katherine and Damian Ballester won the Teen ages 9-13 group competition. Their father, Luis Ballester, a contractor at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, said, "We think it's a great way of getting families together so people can appreciate everyone's talents."

All three had competed in talent contests previously. This time they played John Dowland's "Mistress Winter's Jump" for violin and cello.

"We were thrilled," said Mr. Ballester, "and at the same time grateful."



Tops In Blue performers sang and danced throughout the appreciative audience at Kirkuk, Northern Iraq, during their 2004 Southwest Asia tour. Courtesy photo

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services
Agency Public Affairs

Tops In Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment group, performed at more than 120 locations in more than 30 countries in 2004, but none were more important than the 15 shows the troupe performed before wildly enthusiastic troops in Southwest Asia.

"TIB left for Southwest Asia in July and didn't return until Aug," said Jeri White, Tops In Blue production coordinator at Air Force Services Agency in San Antonio. "They put on 15 shows in 19 days in Qatar, Kuwait, Uzbekistan,

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Djibouti, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq. It was a wild 19 days, but worth the frenzied effort."

That effort included setting up 47,000 pounds of equipment, performing a fast-paced, high-energy 90-minute show and then tearing down all 47,000 pounds, sleeping for a few hours, getting up, traveling to the next location and doing it all over again. The troupe is its own road crew.

The schedule was record-breaking, but there were other "firsts" for the team, as well.

"This was the first time our entertainers were required to carry M-16

weapons and personal protective gear," said Capt. Bethany Glenn from Air Force Services. "The weapons remained palletized and stored at each location except Kandahar. Each person had to carry the weapon, but they weren't issued ammunition."

It was also the first time the troupe witnessed actual combat fire. The Baghdad International Airport was hit with mortar fire during the show, but it didn't disrupt the performance.

The team traveled by C-130, an Air Force cargo aircraft, always between 2 and 3 a.m. As soon as they arrived at the next site, they set

Tops in Blue brings music, joy to deployed troops

up the equipment, rested during the heat of the day and performed in the evening.

"It was a highly successful tour," said Captain Glenn. "There was tremendous praise from commanders at the shows. They always told TIB that they made a difference in the troops' morale."

Tops In Blue is an all-Air Force entertainment troupe that provides a free musical extravaganza to our military forces stationed around the globe.

The team entertains more than 350,000 military and family members from May to February each year.

During its 50-year history, Tops In Blue

has performed at six World Fairs, more than 100 state fairs and festivals and produced five movies and two albums. The troupe performed in six Bob Hope specials and in front of more than 250,000 people at the 2002 Daytona 500. It appeared before a live and broadcast audience of 110 million people during the halftime show at Super Bowl XIX.

"Our goal to reach as many people as possible and thank them for their commitment to the Air Force," said Tom Edwards, director of Air Force Entertainment.

In 2004, the team made sure troops in combat got those thanks in person.

Sixty-eight compete in AF Worldwide Talent Contest

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency

They sang. They danced. They played pianos, saxophones and drums. They "gave it up for the audience."

But they're not your everyday entertainers. They're senior airmen, first lieutenants and staff sergeants. They came from all around the Air Force, from as far away as Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany and as close as Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

And they all had the same dream: to become members of Tops In Blue, the Air Force's elite globetrotting expeditionary entertainment troupe, which turns 52 this year.

But first they had to compete in the annual Worldwide Talent Contest held at Lackland AFB March 7 through 14.

This year 68 competitors vied for the 35 coveted spots on Tops In Blue.

The night's big winner was Senior Airman Russell Roberds from Offutt AFB, Neb., who won the Instrumentalist and Best of Show awards for his personal piano composition "Full Ride."

"I wrote it for a full ride scholarship I tried for at the University of Utah," the Salt Lake City native said. "I didn't get the scholarship, but I did get a great song."

Joining Airman Roberds as category winners were: Airman 1st Class Beverly Sadural, Spangdahlem AB, (Musical Variety);

1st Lt. Tamilyn Becker, Hanscom AFB, Mass., (Dance); Senior Airman Dwayne Perry, Randolph AFB, Texas, (Male Vocalist) and Airman 1st Class Kimberly Arnold, Fairchild AFB, Wash., (Female Vocalist).

Airman Sadural, a 26-year-old San Diego, Calif. native, is assigned to the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Spangdahlem AB as an engineer apprentice. For her winning performance, she sang "I Enjoy Being a Girl."

"This was so exciting," she said. "There's so much talent here. The contest was extremely organized and professional. Your team members pushed you to do your best."

On stage and in her auditions, Airman Sadural was "nervous, scared and excited," but according to her, "It was worth every second, every moment."

Lieutenant Becker, a scientific analyst with the Air Force Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB, is one of many competitors who returned for a second or subsequent chance at the contest. She danced to "Hey Big Spender." She says she began preparing for this year's contest as soon as she found out she didn't make the Tops In Blue team last year.

This Air Force Academy graduate also sings, plays flute and saxophone, but dancing is her first love.

"I would love to dance professionally some day," she said, "modern dance, but I'm taking it as it comes. I'll stay in the Air Force if I continue to enjoy my job."



Senior Airman David Carr of the 37th Communications Squadron sings the Harry Connick tune "Nowhere With Love" March 11 at the Bob Hope Performing Arts Center. Airman Carr was selected to appear with the 2005 Tops In Blue troupe.
Photo By Alan Boedeker

The contest this year involved long hours, but worth every one, she said. "The contest was high quality. The priors (previous Tops In Blue members) were amazing. They helped us feel comfortable. They convinced us to give it up for the audience."

Performing with Tops In Blue would be "amazing," she said. "Tops In Blue truly touches everyone. They're there for the troops. They perform their hearts out so the troops can feel special."

During the contest, held at Lackland's Arnold Hall and Bob Hope Theater, competitors endured private auditions in front of a judging panel made up of prior Tops

Twenty-six picked for 2005 Tops In Blue, *continued from Page 8*

In Blue team members. During their auditions, they were encouraged to try different musical genres. Variety is one of the most prized commodities in Tops In Blue.

"We look beyond talent," said Tom Edwards Air Force Entertainment Director. "We want a complete person to be an ambassador for the Air Force and America. They'll be living in a fish bowl 24 hours a day, seven days a week for an entire year. At this level of competition, it's areas other than just talent that narrow the field."

They also had personal interviews and performed on stage Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Individual winners were announced at the Sunday night banquet, hosted by Mr. Edwards and Col. Timothy Hanson, Air Force Services Agency commander.



Senior Airman Russell Roberds, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., performs on the piano March 12 to earn the Instrumentalist and Best of Show awards at the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest. Photo by Alan Boedeker

Twenty-six contestants were selected to become members of the 2005 Tops In Blue troop. They are, by category:

Male Vocalist: Capt. William Middleswart, 496th Air Base Squadron, Moron AB, Spain; Staff Sgt. Fernando Alejandro, 6th Communications Squadron, MacDill AFB, Fla.; and Senior Airmen Gregory Butler, 1st Medical Squadron, Langley AFB, Va., David Carr, 37th CS, Lackland AFB, Texas; Clifton Newell II, 89th Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutics Squadron, Andrews AFB, Md.; Jamaal Solomon, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C.; Joshua Umstead, 341st Missile Security Forces Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; and Airman 1st Class Andrew Howells, 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard.

Female Vocalist: Lieutenant Becker; Staff Sgts. Cetericka Lomas, 22nd Intelligence Squadron, Ft. Meade, Md.; Terra Mason, 36th CS, Andersen AFB, Guam; and Amber Young, 93rd IS, Lackland; Senior Airmen Erika Placencia, 460th Space Communications Squadron, Buckley AFB, Colo.; Aisha Smith, 99th Aerospace Medical Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.; and Suzanne Wajih, 56th Maintenance Operations Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Airmen 1st Class Arnold, 92nd SVS, Fairchild; Sadural; and Brook Hoffman, 81st Medical Surgical Operations Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Instrumentalists: Staff Sgts. Shane Armstrong, 475th Air Evacuation Squadron, Scott AFB, Ill. (guitar), and Christine Farris, 3rd Combat Communication Support Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla. (saxophone); Senior Airmen Daniel Rankin, 31st IS, Fort Gordon, Ga.

(bass); and Robert Washington Jr., 325th CES, Tyndall AFB, Fla. (drums); and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Rice, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash., (trombone).

Techs: Senior Airman Michael George, 30th CES, Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and Airmen 1st Class Jonathan Brighton, 37th CS, Lackland, and Kenneth Larock, 88th CS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Barry Best, music director at the Worldwide Contest since 2000 and an assistant director before that, is the lead music arranger for the contestants and the band. He also helps in selecting contestants for the talent contest and assists in selecting the final Tops In Blue team. He writes most of the charts for the band, and rehearses the band and the competitors separately and together.

Mr. Best, who earned a bachelor's of science degree in music from Valdosta State University in Georgia, also goes out on the road with Tops In Blue during the important first two-to-three weeks, making sure everything musically goes smoothly.

His love for music is entwined with his love for Tops In Blue, and also working with the young entertainers.

"I love to see the contestants grow as people and performers," he said. "This program is so beneficial to so many people. The performers will note a total difference in their lives. They'll mature tremendously, raise their self-confidence and abilities. They'll be used to working long days and learn how to handle problems. When they return to their regular Air Force jobs, they'll be different people."

Incirlik clubgoers have Spam-tastic evening

By Chris Skully
Community Support Flight Chief
Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

January 28th was not your typical Friday night at the Incirlik American Club, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The entire facility was decorated in distinctive blue and yellow, and there was a smell of freshly cooked Spam in the air. The aroma came from the chafing trays filled with Spam-fried rice and Spam and eggs for eager and adventurous Clubgoers.

Outside the Club, the Outdoor Recreation staff inflated and set up their new Bungee Run, which hosted more than 50 participants in the Spam Bear Challenge. The winning distance was 30 feet, a feat that no one thought possible.

In the ballroom, the stage was set for Spam carving, Spam Dunk, Spam trivia, and a Spam cook-off.

There was an obvious buzz to the crowd as the events unfolded and masterpieces of processed food were sculpted into flowers, towers and animals.

The top three dishes in the cook-off were: Spam and Spinach Risoto, Spam-n-Jam sandwich and Spam and beer chili.

The Spam Dunk competition yielded many laughs as contestants tossed a can of Spam through a target from distances of 5 to 20 feet.

The whole evening was light-hearted and good spirited, and most of the more than 200 who attended

left with a Spam memento of some kind. The most popular Spam Fest memorabilia items were the classic Spam t-shirts, hats, antenna balls, bumper stickers, glow-in-the-dark cups, and bottle openers.

With the success of Incirlik's inaugural Spam Fest, it is likely that this will become an annual event.



Spam bungee

Above photo: Outside the Club, the Outdoor Recreation staff had just inflated and set up their new Bungee Run, which hosted more than 50 participants in the SPAM Bear Challenge. The winning distance was 30 feet, a distance no one thought possible. Photos by Chris Skully

Spam carving

Left photo: In the ballroom the stage was set for Spam Carving, Spam Dunk, Spam Trivia, and a Spam Cookoff.

Spam party

Photo below: There was an obvious buzz to the crowd as the events unfolded and masterpieces of processed food were sculpted into flowers, towers and animals.





From left, Mike May checks-in customer Dean Shumate at the front desk of the Randolph Inn. Photos by Jennifer Valentin

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

For a staff of more than 100 people, keeping 600 rooms maintained and hundreds of guest satisfied can be a challenging job, but teamwork is the key to their success.

The Randolph Inn lodging staff is committed to providing excellent service to its visitors, said lodging officials. The staff works together, like a family, in order to achieve this goal.

"Team building is important for any organization to function well," said Clint DeCoux, Services management trainee, "so we have several programs in place to bring everyone together for the purpose of supporting each other and recognizing our team members."

"Motivational Day" includes teambuilding activities designed to get the staff's energy up and prepare them for the days ahead,

said Mr. DeCoux. There is also the "WOW" program that recognizes staff members who go above and beyond their duties.

Lodging officials say these programs have been instrumental in creating a cohesive team environment that results in excellent customer service.

Lodging staff keeps room for fun in daily routine

The Randolph Inn provides full-service housekeeping, a 24-hour maintenance team, a snack bar, distinguished visitor suites and chief suites, and an Internet service in the lobby and some suites.

Lodging is available to anyone who has a military ID card. Reservations are required.



Yolanda Castiello cleans one of the rooms at the Randolph Inn.

Norman Foote brings laughs to Kadena

By Catherine Lane
Kadena Air Base,
Japan, Services
Marketing

With more than 100 people in attendance, Norman Foote, award-winning singer and songwriter, performed live recently at the Kadena Air Base, Japan, Schilling Community Center.

This year his show, "Let's Sing and Laugh for Christmas," featured hilarious skits and songs. Adults and children alike

couldn't stop laughing as Mr. Foote called for frequent audience participation. He had five children take the stage one at a time and sing their favorite song while he accompanied with his guitar.

Songs included "Itsy Bitsy Spider," "The ABC Song" and "Ooops, I Did it Again" by Britney Spears. Mr. Foote then put a large "Mr. Potato Head" mask on and added and subtracted facial parts. The children particularly enjoyed



Norman Foote calls for complete audience participation with a song. Courtesy photo.

this. He also called a father to the stage and had him dance to an off-beat, comical song.

There was something for everyone in the room. When asked what his favorite

part was, six-year-old Michael Rivera said, "I liked it when he put the head thing on," referring to the Mr. Potato Head skit.

After the show, Mr. Foote signed autographs. His

extensive material remained original and diverse. "I try very hard to create different and all original songs and skits," said Mr. Foote.

This was his third visit to Kadena.

Airman wins new car at club

By Stephanie Ritter
355th Wing Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Bruce Zimmerman, 612th Air Communications Squadron, lays across the hood of a Jeep Wrangler he won. Sergeant Zimmerman was selected as the winner of the jeep during the Super Bowl Party at the Desert Oasis Enlisted Club. Courtesy photo

While Jacksonville, Fla. was hosting the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles on the football field, the Desert Oasis Enlisted Club opened its doors to provide a place for the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. community to watch them play in Super Bowl XXXIX. One sergeant drove away in a new Jeep.

"The event included lots of prizes, snacks, drink specials, hundreds of dollars in giveaways and a Super Bowl Buffet," said Chris Sweeney, 355th Services Squadron marketing publicist.

"We also announced the winners of the grand prize Jeep Wrangler, deluxe barbecue gas grill and X-Box game system.

The winners for the grand prizes were from Football Frenzy entries submitted during 2004 Monday Night games."

The winner of the jeep was Staff Sgt. Bruce Zimmerman, 612th Air Communications Squadron secure communications journeyman.

"A couple of guys from work and I would head over to the club every Monday night during Monday Night Football," Sergeant Zimmerman said. "I would submit my name for the jeep every week."

The Monday Night events were a good, inexpensive way to spend time, said Sergeant Zimmerman.

"I live on base and it is convenient for me to go to the club," Sergeant Zimmerman said. "That and you don't have to spend a lot of money with the food and other specials. It's a good deal."

Eielson's 'Operation Cope' eases family deployment stress

By 1st Lt. Teresa Sullivan
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Operation Cope Deployment, a quality of life initiative meant to ease the stresses of deployment for children of Iceman Team members kicked off in February.

Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, youth ages 5-12 and teens ages 13-18 are offered the chance to take free field trips, join in discussions about deployments and participate in other fun-filled activities as part of Operation Cope Deployment, according to Joy Knowles, 354th Services Squadron community center director and project officer for the program.

"Operation Cope Deployment is designed to bring youth together in a relaxed environment so they can have fun and talk about issues they have while their parents or guardians are deployed," she said. "People are realizing that during deployments the kids are under

stress, not just the spouse. Being a kid is already stressful in this day and age. With Operation Cope Deployment they have a forum to discuss their concerns while participating in fun activities."

This program is a collaborative effort where the 354th Services Squadron, 354th Mission Support Squadron family support center, 354th MSS life skills and the 354th Fighter Wing chapel have joined forces to create this quality of life initiative.

"We have four Operation Cope Deployment activities coming up," said Debbie Conklin, 354th SVS youth center director. "For teens age 13-18 we're having Arctic Challenge ice house races at Iceman Falls and a trip to Chena Hot Springs. For youth age 5-12 we're having a day of activities at Iceman Falls and a trip to see the ice carvings in Fairbanks."

Activities and field trips are only part of the Operation Cope Deploy-

ment equation: open forums for discussion make up the rest.

"We're hoping to train some Iceman Team members who have recently returned from deployment so they can take part in facilitating the discussions," said Ms. Conklin. "This way, kids can learn first-hand about what their parents are going through while deployed and kids can ask questions about issues and concerns they may have."

"I think it's good that we're reaching out to the kids," Mrs. Knowles said. "Operation Cope Deployment is a good avenue to get kids to talk about their concerns in a relaxed environment. They get time to talk and a whole lot of fun."

Mrs. Knowles views Operation Cope Deployment as a permanent fixture on the lengthy list of Eielson quality of life programs, she said.

"I think it's here to stay. Right now we're trying hard to make this work," said Ms. Knowles. "It's a team effort."

Sweet treat

Madison Asher, daughter of 1st Lt. Victoria and Tech. Sgt. Todd Asher, tastes the cookie decoration she created during Friendship Day at the Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. Child Development Center in February.

Lieutenant Asher is a member of the 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Sergeant Asher is a member of the 20th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Photo by Senior Airman Susan Penning



Misawa Services troops offer unique programs while deployed

When Misawa Air Base, Japan, Services troops deploy, they bring a whole new meaning to customer service. Services goes beyond meeting the basic needs of food and shelter. Just as each location is unique so are the programs that Services offers.

From the beginning, Services facilities are on the front lines. Lodging helps to pitch tents and set up beds and set up laundry equipment. Food operations provide everything from Meals, Ready to Eat to cooked food prepared by palletized kitchens that slide off the plane ready to go. Services members handle and organize all mortuary affairs. Additionally, they perform honorary guard detail, paying last respects to fallen soldiers.

A large part of keeping morale high is providing troops with comforts and familiarity. Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Magby,

Food Service superintendent, said that feeding troops great food is an important part of keeping them happy. "We try to give the troops what they want to eat," he said. However, when food options are limited to fried food, it's the little things, like getting wheat bread or a nice green salad that are really important.

The people at Services know birthdays and holidays are especially difficult. Tech. Sgt. Sheri Shelton, Recreation director, deployed to Qatar, helped troops celebrate the right way. Those with birthdays got a specially prepared meal and a cake. For holidays, Services went all out. "We provided an outstanding Thanksgiving and Christmas meal that included crab legs! Where else can you get all-you-can-eat crab legs?" she said.

Services has always been there to keep troops fit to fight by offering

recreation and sports activities. Sergeant Shelton said they offered programs and events that included a running club, circuit training classes, 5K fun runs, bench press competitions, intramural basketball and volleyball.

They create recreation and media centers for troops to have leisure outlets, as well. Troops can stay connected to loved ones with the phones and computers provided. Troops have access to the Internet, where they can check e-mail or shop on-line. Library and educational services provide a wealth of information and to set up library resources. They are also welcome to relax and watch movies and engage in dominoes, ping-pong or card games.

"People go to deployed locations with expectations and we as Services need to exceed those expectations,"



Tech. Sgt. Jerry Cataldo, Fitness and Recreation director, who was deployed to Balad, Iraq, prepares to unload pallets of bottled water. Photo courtesy Desert Eagle

said Tech. Sgt. Jerry Cataldo, Fitness and Recreation director, who was deployed to Balad AB, Iraq, last year.

To boost morale he hosted many exciting events. Each week, troops went crazy over Bingo. He planned a Cinco de Mayo party to give something extra special to the troops. He said this required lots of coordination because he had to order decorations and food weeks in advance for the party.

Sergeant Shelton helped host Services version of the popular TV show "Survivor," a challenging two-day

event. One of the challenges was to eat unusual food concoctions. Sergeant Shelton commented even the TV show "Fear Factor" wouldn't dare try some of the things they came up with.

What's key is that Services will always go above and beyond meeting just the basic needs whenever possible. Sergeant Magby summed up Services' mission nicely, "It doesn't matter where we deploy, our main focus is the morale of the troops, and we take it seriously and do it with pride."

Article courtesy Desert Eagle

Cannon Youth Center 'rocks'

Courtesy of the 27th Services Squadron

"The Youth Center Rocks," said John Kelm, one of the Youth Center teens. "I love going to the Youth Center, I always have fun and learn a lot."

The Youth Center has a lot to offer the youth of Cannon Air Force Base. One new addition to the Cannon Youth Center is the capability to create homemade DVDs that could easily be treasured gifts to send to a deployed loved one.

Also available at the Youth Center are computers with Internet access, along with instant messenger and e-mail capabilities for children whose parents are deployed or on temporary duty.

Also, the 2005 ImageMakers National Photography Contest will begin its local contest at The Youth Center. Children may enter in one of the four age groups: nine or younger, 10 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16 to 18. The photos will be entered in

one of the following categories: color process, black and white process, alternative process (pinhole cameras, Polaroid transfers, photo screen-printing, photo etching, and photograms), digital photos, and photo essay.

The winning photo from each category will be sent to the regional contest for a chance to go to the 2005 ImageMakers Photography Contest.

Also, the Cannon Youth program has implemented the Youth Employment Skills, or YES program. The YES program, funded by Air Force Aid Society, offers high school-aged family members of active duty military members an opportunity to learn valuable work skills while positively impacting base agencies.

High school students (grades 9-12) may participate in the program. The YES program allows high school students to "bank" volunteer dollar credits towards their college education at a rate of \$4 per hour

volunteered. Students may accumulate up to 250 hours during their high school years, a total of \$1,000 for tuition, books, fees, and other direct educational costs.

The funds are held for the students by the AFAS until they begin their post-secondary education. The youth program also receives \$2 for every hour volunteered by participants.

The "banked" youth programs money will be used to enhance programs and equipment offered for teens.

Teens will have input on how the youth program's money is spent. Any work center on base may request a YES volunteer by contacting the youth center director or flight chief at 784-2747.

Work centers must complete a job description for participating youths and complete a simple time sheet for the participants. Interested teens must also complete enrollment forms for eligibility.

Kadena Library begins new chapter

By Jeremiah Howell
18th Services Marketing

After six months of renovation, many hours of labor and half a million dollars, dozens of attendees gathered to witness the official grand re-opening of the Kadena Air Base, Japan, base library recently.

With a display of true team spirit, Col.

Richard Zink, 18th Wing vice commander; Col. H. Brent Baker Sr., 18th Mission Support Group commander; Col. Ross Roley, 18th Services commander; Col. Juan Ibanez, 18th Civil Engineering commander Col. James Cutter, 18th Wing Head Chaplain, Tsuneshige Yamahata (a representative of

the company who renovated the facility) and Phil Ip, base librarian, joined together to cut the ribbon and announce the library officially re-opened.

The renovation process began with the library being stripped down to its bare structural elements. Interior walls and partitions were demolished, leaving only the

main outside support walls. New air duct and electrical systems were put in place, along with new lighting and upgrades to computer workstations. Noticeable improvements include new carpeting, completely renovated restrooms and upgraded computer equipment.

The renovation began in May 2004

and involved re-locating the library to a smaller, temporary home.

The library staff and volunteers were engaged in moving books, computer equipment, shelving, and pieces of furniture from the library into the temporary facility.

"Fortunately, no books were damaged in the process, though," Mr. Ip said.

Yokota Services go bare base

By Janet Pierpont
374th Mission Support Group

Air Force Services troops deploy in support of many operations, ranging from military operations other than war to major theater war. Yokota Air Base, Japan's Services Samurai Warriors' recent support included Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Cope Tiger, Eagle Flag, Silver Flag, Alaskan Road, Joint Support to the Navy Flag Ship Blue Ridge and equipment support to Cope Rebound and Operation Unified Assistance. One of the core requirements for deployed Services personnel in many of these operations is field feeding at bare base (undeveloped) locations.

During the recent Operational Readiness Exercise, 374th Services Division troops took on a unique challenge at Yokota and demonstrated the ability to rapidly and effectively set up a field feeding operation alongside the normal feeding operation. Over the course of three hours, food service Airmen erected a four section Temper Tent, set up the M-59 field range, utilized gasoline fueled M-2 burners for cooking, and gasoline fueled immersion heaters for sanitation.

The Services warriors were led by Tech. Sgt Robert Boettner, Samurai Café manager and field site NCOIC.

"I was pleased with the performance of my airmen," he said. "This is a first in my two years here in setting up a field feeding operation, and I thought the team did very well. It's an excellent training opportunity for the food service team. We got the chance to show

the base how we can transition from an established dining facility such as the Samurai Café to a field operation quickly and efficiently." Sergeant Boettner's words were echoed by the rest of the team.

The Services Samurai Warriors cooked and served a piping hot meal for 50 people, including Exercise Evaluation Team members and Wing leadership.

Among the wing leaders who enjoyed the meal were Col. Michael Koster, 374th Airlift Wing Inspector General, and Col. Douglas Kreulen, 374th Airlift Wing Vice Commander. Colonel Koster praised the troops for their response to the tasking. "I appreciate the effort," he said. "This is something we've been tasked to do, and our food service team stepped up to it."



From left, 374th Services Division Airman 1st Class Devaughn Powell, Staff Sgt. Mike Monserate and Airman 1st Class Jeremy Trujillo serve customers at their field feeding station.



Airman 1st Class Jeremy Trujillo, 374th Services Division, demonstrates the Immersion Heater to Col. Doug Kreulen, 374th Airlift Wing Vice commander, and Col. Michael Koster, 374th Airlift Wing Inspector General, as Tech Sgt. Robert Boettner looks on.

Dover Systems Support keeps services on-line

By Julie Rich
436th Services Squadron

Providing maintenance and support for 223 computers, 12 servers, 20 specialized software programs and approximately 200 other types of computer equipment requires constant support and maintenance by the three members of the 436th Services Squadron System Support team. The team's main focus is to ensure all of the squadron's 17 facilities are on-line and running without any inconvenience to the customers.

"Just about every squadron has some type of system support personnel," said Kevin McGarrigle, 436th SVS computer specialist. "What really makes our shop unique is the volume and variety of computer systems and programs we maintain. Also, Services is spread throughout the base, with a few of our facilities outside the gate."

The system support office is made up of two military members and one civilian employee who are responsible for maintaining and handling all the support user networks, e-mail accounts and computer maintenance.

"We provide routine maintenance on site and in our office," said Mr. McGarrigle. "We also act as an in resident help desk to trouble shoot minor software and wireless communication problems."

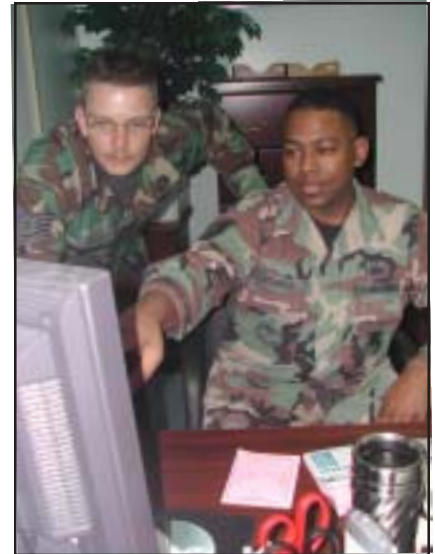
Besides maintaining the Services' computer needs, they are also responsible for providing security awareness and special program application training to the squadron.

"The main type of computer training we provide is the security and awareness training at the squadron level," said Tech. Sgt. Lesley Bryan, 436th Services Squadron Unit Information manager. "Training is also provided for specialized software programs, such as the Services Information Management Systems used by our Non-Appropriated Accounting office and our REC TRAC software, which is used to track our inventory point-of-sale activities."

As an added task, the 436th SVS system support office acts as a point of contact between vendors and the squadron's end users by researching and recommending new programs, equipment and systems to the squadron's flight chiefs and commander.

According to Tech. Sgt. Daran Steele, 436th SVS, systems administrator, working on computers in the SVS is challenging because they are not in the Communications Squadron's career field and do not receive official computer training during their technical school or at the squadron level.

"We receive some training from the 436th Communications Squadron, the Services Agency, other squadron computer administrators



Tech. Sgt. Daran Steele assists Tech. Sgt. Russell Jameson, 436th Services Squadron Readiness NCOIC with a system error that needs to be resolved before base exercises. The Dover Air Force Base, Del., System Support team is there to help all 436th SVS members with their computer questions and issues. Photo courtesy 436th Services Squadron.

and our vendors," said Sergeant Steele.

"Most of the training we receive is on our own," said Mr. McGarrigle. "This job is mostly self-driven because of the constant changes in the technology field. The 436th SVS uses many unique programs like corporate food service, Lodging Touch and MOMS for our mortuary that requires us to know them inside and out."

"That is what makes this job challenging as well as interesting," said Sergeant Bryan. "Every day new technology is created and that same technology becomes obsolete and outdated. This makes discovering new ways to perform the same tasks a learning experience that we can pass onto other squadron members to ensure they can provide their customers with the best service with fewer problems."

Old West comes alive at Roundup

DeWayne Henderson, riding Risky, models an authentic uniform worn by members of Company D, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, circa 1871-1873. Fort Concho Cavalry re-creators of the period will perform at the inaugural Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Saddle Club Roundup. Photo by Wayne Amann



By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

Move over San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo – here comes Lackland Air Force Base, Texas' inaugural Saddle Club Roundup, where the 'Old West' lives again at Stillman Park April 9.

"Texas is such a unique place to live, it's hard not to get involved in it's culture," Saddle Club Barn Manager Ann Gilkey said. "It's good to bring people in to learn more about what this state has to offer.

The Roundup features a Cavalry re-enactment by members of Company D, 4th Regiment, a unit stationed at Fort Concho from 1871 to 1873. According to the Fort Concho web site the uniforms and equipment of Company D accurately reflects those of cavalry officers more than a century ago.

The unit is now part of the education division of the Fort Concho Museum that is owned and

operated by the city of San Angelo, Texas. Its primary function is to educate the public about the life of the western frontier army.

Company D will ride in different drill formations, have sabre routines and gallop with flags.

"Texas and horses go hand-in-hand," Ms. Gilkey said. "Different breeds, including donkeys, will be on display, similar to a horse petting zoo where children can learn about the animals."

Acclaimed storyteller, humorist and poet Biscuits O'Bryan will entertain for approximately an hour. Mr. O'Bryan was voted by the Academy of Western Artists as winner of the prestigious Will Rogers Award for Best Cowboy Storyteller/Humorist. His presentation is geared toward the military, with which he's very familiar. He's a former sailor, soldier and Green Beret.

More storytelling is offered by Lackland's own Alice the Storyteller,

who'll spin western yarns around a simulated campfire setting for kids.

Music will be provided by the Countrymen, a 4-piece San Antonio based country/western band.

Roundup officials emphasize this is a family event. Family Child Care providers will offer western arts and crafts while the Teen Center will work various western games in the Lil' Cowpoke Apprentice Shops area. Other ongoing attractions are the bungee bull rides, bouncing bustle castle, western picture taking and door prizes.

Stillman Park will feature a lighted, flat arena with plenty of viewing space. Bleachers will be set up but Roundup officials encourage visitors to bring folding chairs or a blanket. There'll be ample standing room around the perimeter.

The Saddle Club Roundup is sponsored, in part, by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

"Bring a friend and your appetite," Ms. Gilkey said.

Hands-on opportunities at Dover Skills Center

By Theresa Krause
436th Services Squadron

The Dover Air Force Base, Del., Skills Development Center is the place for art and craft enthusiasts to go. It provides both the workspace and the skills needed to learn or create a new project or talent.

"Currently, we offer stained glass, pottery and framing classes on a continuous, back-to-back basis," said Xan Salas, Skills Development Center manager.

The SDC has a studio equipped for working with both lead and copper foiling stained glass techniques. Day and night lead and copper stained glass classes are taught at the center.

During the copper foiling class students learn how to cut, foil, clean and solder the glass to form at least two projects, while in the lead stained glass class students learn how to stretch the lead and how to tap the glass into place.

For those who like to really get their hands in the dirt, the SDC offers beginning and advanced pottery classes. During the six-week pottery class, the instructor teaches how to place clay on a potter's wheel and to build a mold by hand. Students also learn to add texture and glaze to their project.

The skills center also offers students a chance to spice up their photos with a variety of matting and framing classes.

"We offer beginning, single opening matting to double/triple matting classes," said Ms. Salas.

The framing and matting classes teach students basic matting

methods and instructs them to properly use the mat cutter to create their desired effects.

The Dover Skills Center also has individual and group piano lessons available. The class meets for half an hour, one time a week for four weeks.

Students can also build skills in languages. The sign language class meets two nights per week for a five-week session.

The Skills Center also offers knitting and photography classes. Knitting classes run for five weeks, two hours each session for \$40. Students will learn the basics of knitting and will complete at least one project. T

he photography classes run for six weeks and each student will become more familiar with their camera and its functions while learning the techniques needed to make great photographs. At the end of the six weeks every student will know how to use light, composition and their gear to get the most out of their film whether it's just for hobby or to take better family snapshots.

The Skills Center does have open studio on Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Artists must purchase supplies ahead of time, as the sales store will not be open.

In addition to all these services, the center will also be offering various cultural workshops for children, such as mask making, Japanese printmaking, paper people and English tea for a "tea for two party".

These classes be offered in February and are monthly.

Learning to fly easy at the Aero Club

It's easy to earn a pilot's license, according to the Dover Aero Club.

"Obtaining a pilot's license can be quick and fairly easy to accomplish," said Joe Nickle, 436th Services Squadron, Aero Club manager. "Students control how long it will take by setting their own pace. Aero Club members can train to become Federal Aviation Administration- licensed pilots with a minimum of 35 hours ground training and 35 hours of flight training under the FAA's Part 141 training program, which generally takes a minimum of three months to accomplish."

Staff members at the Aero Club aid each student pilot in planning their course, using either the FAA's Part 141 or Part 61 program. The primary difference between the two is the minimum number of hours required to obtain a private pilot's license.

The Aero Club also offers courses for instrument, commercial, flight instructor and Air Transport Pilot in both single and multiengine aircraft.

Military pilots may earn their licenses through the Military Competency Program or get add-on class/category rating such as a single engine add-on to their current FAA multiengine certification.

Additionally, the Aero Club offers all available FAA knowledge tests, including those required for the airframe and power plant mechanics license, with a LaserGrade Computer Testing Center on site. Being a LaserGrade certified test center, students are able to test and then receive instant results.

(Courtesy 436th Services Squadron)

Mortuary Affairs 101: the life after death

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

When it comes to the cradle-to-grave world of Services, people hope they never have to deal with the latter.

But in real life there is death. Knowing how to deal with the aftermath, specifically who needs to do what, can make this most difficult of human experiences as painless as possible for all concerned.

Enter Mortuary Affairs 101, a training session designed for commanders, their spouses and first sergeants.

"We found many commanders don't know what we deal with or do," Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, 37th Services Division Alternate Mortuary Officer Jeri Martin said. "This gives them insight and the assurance we're here to support them. They won't be left hanging while so much stuff is going on."

Seven Mortuary Affairs 101 classes are scheduled in Lackland's Gateway Club's Alamo Rooms, two in March, one in April, two in May and two in June.

Mortuary Affairs 101 covers what the attendees may face

in a mortuary case, what commander's and first sergeant's responsibilities are, family entitlements and more.

The mission of Mortuary Affairs is to provide search, recovery, casketing, identification, preparation, transportation and other related functions for the remains of deceased active duty and retired Air Force personnel.

Lackland is the busiest base level Mortuary Office in the Air Force. It handled 119 cases in 2003, 82 cases in 2004 and as of Feb. 14, 11 in 2005.

In every case Mortuary Affairs

appoints a summary courts officer, a family liaison officer and an escort. The SCO is an officer from the organization that lost the active duty member. Each SCO is appointed by the Wing commander to handle actions for the deceased's property and personal effects.

The FLO is the liaison between the family and the government agencies they deal with and assists the family with anything else they need, usually through the funeral.

"We're directed by Headquarters AETC (Air Education

and Training Command) to have at least one pre-trained FLO from each organization, including associate and tenant units," Ms. Martin said. "We have 175 FLOs, most in the Air Force."

Mortuary Affairs works in concert with another 37th Services component, the Lackland Honor Guard. Its area of responsibility covers 24 Texas counties spanning nearly 23 thousand square miles.

"Everyone is leery of the unknown," Ms. Martin said.

"Knowing there's an office to help will ease your mind."

Smith wins DVD player



Maj. Kathleen Weatherspoon, 436th Services Squadron, Dover Air Force Base, Del., presents Airman 1st Class Romain Smith, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, with a DVD player, as Lt. Col. Kent Nonaka, 436th CES, looks on. Airman Smith's name was drawn at random from those patrons who entered the drawing sponsored by Dover's Patterson Dining Facility. The DVD player was donated by a Dover team member. Photo by Julie Rich.

Danko gets his STRIPES



Tech. Sgt. Chris Danko was awarded technical sergeant stripes under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program by Maj. Gen. Michael Collings, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Billy Doolittle, Command Chief Master Sgt., recently. Sergeant Danko is the Honor Guard NCO in charge at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and works for the 78th Mission Support Group Services director. Courtesy photo.

A Chief's perseverance pays off

By Chief Master Sgt. Cortland Saunders Jr.

AFMC Services Senior Enlisted Manager
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

After a little more than 18 months, I've finally completed my bachelor's degree. Finishing my degree was satisfying for several personal and professional reasons. A busy schedule or lack of funds are two reasons people often give for not going back to school; however, there are numerous ways to address these issues. Sure, some sacrifices are required, but if you really want to get it done, you can. This Chief did it. So can you.

Walk the talk

Ever notice how hard it is to advocate for something you're not following through with yourself? As the Services Enlisted Manager for Air Force Materiel Command, one of my responsibilities was to visit the troops in the field. One of my messages was the importance of off-duty education. After my first few trips out, I realized I needed to "walk the talk." How could I convince my fellow Airmen of the value of continued education when I had stopped after completing my CCAF degree?

Now that I've actually got my degree, I feel my "get back to school" push will have a little more credibility.

Grow as a person

Personal and professional growth was the second reason. My degree does not necessarily make me a smarter person or a better NCO, but it did expose me to new concepts and theories. These new ideas,

coupled with my experience and job knowledge, will provide me with a formidable set of tools to attack and successfully overcome many of the challenges I will face in the future.

Complete the goal

The satisfaction of completing a goal I had set was an additional reason. Finishing my bachelor's degree has been on my goal list for quite a while. Unfortunately, when I talk about going back to school, I hear numerous reasons why someone can't. Overwhelmingly, these reasons center around two issues: time and money.

The great news is that if you have the desire and motivation, time and money concerns can be overcome.

Time no excuse

In the past, you earned your degree by going to class one or more times a week and sitting through several hours of lectures. If you had a heavy TDY schedule or worked a lot of long hours (as we do in Services), it was still difficult to go back to school. The times have changed, thanks in a big part to technology. In recent years there have been a proliferation of colleges and universities offering correspondence courses, on-line courses, or CD-ROM based courses. All allow study at a time most convenient to your personal schedule. Some require meeting times at internet-based classrooms, while others simply require you to log-on to a website and post replies to questions or discussions.

Now you can do your schoolwork after a swing shift, after the kids are off to bed or school, on week-

ends, or even while TDY. Basically, time is no longer an excuse. If you want to get your degree, you can do it and your efforts can fit into your existing schedule.

Money, money, money

What about the second issue: Money? Enter 100 percent military tuition assistance. The Air Force will pay 100 percent of your tuition and fees up to \$4,500 per year. This will often easily cover the cost of the classes you will take in a year's time. Books are another expense to consider. You can't use TA for books, so you'll have to cover this cost yourself. Don't fret, because some colleges have all their course study and reference materials on CD-ROM or via Internet sources and books won't be an issue. If your costs exceed \$4,500, scholarships, grants or loans can help take care of what tuition assistance won't cover. For those who have the Montgomery GI Bill, the picture is even better. One important caveat: Check to ensure any school you attend is accredited by a recognized accreditation board.

The bottom line: Finishing your education can pay dividends professionally and personally. Your degree, coupled with your experience and job knowledge, provides a great set of tools to draw from to meet future challenges. Additionally, you come away with the satisfaction of completing a goal you have set for yourself. If you want to go back to school, don't let time and money become obstacles to your pursuit.

Contact your education office to find out how to take advantage of what is available. A continuing education is within your grasp.

Armed Forces Entertainment Michael Lee Jackson Band

By Army Maj. Sherry Turner
Armed Forces Entertainment

Armed Forces Entertainment offers artists the opportunity to see the world while entertaining troops and family members stationed overseas.

The Michael Lee Jackson Band is one of the hundreds of entertainers who applied and was accepted into AFE's unique program. Having proven themselves as exceptional rock and rhythm and blues band, the group has had the good fortune to perform for our troops at numerous remote and distant installations since 1998.

The group just spent 21 days traveling and performing in Italy, Spain and Portugal. Spending time playing great rock music and mingling with the audience is what Mr. Jackson, an attorney in New York, loves best. "Playing for Service people in very isolated places, like Terceira, Portugal, when everyone really just wants to be home is the most rewarding aspect of the tour," he said. "It's nice to be able to deliver some quality rock and roll from home."

Mr. Jackson, former lead guitar player for the group 10,000 Maniacs and lead vocalist for Animal Planet, highly recommends other entertainers apply for the AFE program. "It's a great experience to tour the world, to be out on your own, having to survive as a band under less than ideal circumstances, navigate different rules in different airports around the world, understand different cultures in different countries, and learn to live together," he said.

Whether traveling through the Pacific, Mediterranean, the Caribbean, Southwest Asia, the Balkans, Greenland or Europe, touring can be anything but easy. Traveling on commercial airlines, military airlift and ground transportation, crossing time zones and hemispheres, working with various customs and airline representatives who speak little, if any, English, while transporting over a thousand pounds of excess band equipment (in addition to personal luggage) is not as glamorous and some people may fantasize, but the entertainers do it for the primary purpose of bringing some good old' U.S. entertainment to our troops.

Every month numerous tours (from rock bands to "balloon wizards" and magicians) depart from the CONUS for anywhere between 7 to 45 days to ensure as many of our 270-plus military installations overseas receive as much entertainment as possible, especially during the holiday season. Everyone who participates in an AFE tour returns to the States exclaiming what a "life-changing experience" the tour was and that they can't wait to go out again.

Mr. Jackson offers some sound advice to entertainers who will be traveling for the first time with AFE, "Expect the unexpected and always be alert; remember that you are a guest and courtesy will resolve almost any problem."

Thanks to dedicated and selfless entertainers such as the MLJ band, AFE will always be able to meet the needs of commanders in their effort to boost troop morale while enhancing operational readiness.

The Nate Pearce Band

The Nate Pearce Band, a country and western act, recently performed at various military installations in five Pacific countries.

To Mr. Pearce, the experience was more than just a tour; it made "me proud to be an American."

The band's leader shared his experiences in a letter to AFE officials.

"I wanted to show my support for the troops," he wrote, "the men and women who are willing to put their lives on the line each and every day for our country. I wanted to show thanks for the sacrifices they made, make and will make, and let them know how much we love and support them, and to let them know they are in our prayers, and in our hearts."

It is the memory of the people they met that will stay with all the band members. That and a short conversation Mr. Pearce had after one tour stop.

"When I was in Kure Harbor, Akizuki, Japan, I had the pleasure of meeting the installation commander, a lieutenant colonel," he said in his letter. "We had just finished our show when he approached us and said, 'While you guys were playing, I closed my eyes for just a few minutes, and for those few minutes I felt like I was back home.' The he and the sergeant major presented us with service and performance coins. I had never felt anything like that. That coin I received felt better than any Country Music award I could ever get."



Master Sgt. 'Food' takes SNCO honor

Master Sgt. Byron Nelson, 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron food service flight chief, speaks during the base's birthday dinner celebration Feb. 15.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Colette Bennett

By Maj. Bernadette Dozier
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office

Shocked is one way to describe how the base's food service flight chief felt after a recent wing staff meeting. He thought he was just filling in for someone, but when Col. Glen Apgar, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, told him to stand in front of everyone, he knew something was up. What happened next wasn't something Master Sgt. Bryon Nelson expected — the announcement that he was the U.S. Central Command Air Forces/Headquarters 9th Air Force Senior NCO for 2004.

"I was completely surprised and very humbled. It's difficult to capture the moment in

words," said Sergeant Nelson, from the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron. "In my mind I was thanking my family and all of the people who've been involved with this blessing and wonderful opportunity."

A recognized expert in his career field, he was hand-picked for this assignment, which entails overseeing the largest food service operation in the AOR and the second largest in the Air Force.

Sergeant Nelson and his staff of 70 military members and 275 Third Country National have a big responsibility. They serve about 450,000 meals monthly and run three dining facilities, a flight kitchen and two rations facilities.

"We provide vital quality of life support to the best

Air Force the world has ever known," said the Spanish Fork, Utah, native. "Our food service team increases the morale of over 1.7 million DOD warriors and Coalition forces (over the course of) each rotation."

Before moving here in September, he was the lead instructor at the Silver Flag Services Combat Training site at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., and assigned as the noncommissioned officer in charge of program management.

His award nomination includes his accomplishments from both bases. He was by-name requested to test a prototype combat kitchen; this effort led to him co-writing an Air Force Handbook on field food and financial operations.

He was also picked to help Air

Staff write two Air Force Services Handbooks and the new Full Spectrum Threat Response guidance, as part of the annual Air Force Services Agency readiness curriculum review. As a result, his five-year "focus-on-the-force" plan became an Air Force benchmark.

The wing's top enlisted member had nothing but praise for Sergeant Nelson.

"Master Sergeant 'Food' as he is affectionately called is what the PFE talks about when it talks of service before self," said Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin Harper, 379th AEW command chief.

"I always want to ensure I'm taking care of the most important job the Air Force has entrusted me with — leading and mentoring people. I've enjoyed being a

mentor to over 140 services personnel every AEF rotation ... it's my way of paying it forward."

From his commander's perspective, Sergeant Nelson's handprint is found everywhere.

"No one positively impacts the quality of life on the base more than Master Sergeant Nelson," said Maj. D.J. Wendling, 379 ESVS commander.

"Whether it's mentoring Network 15 members, emceeding various fitness and sports events or marking ration cards at the Desert Eagle Lounge, (he's) involved in every aspect of the base."

While he's done a lot in his career, being in the spotlight isn't what motivates him — it's his family. "I want my three beautiful boys to be proud of their father."

Services Airman 'Rock at the Rock'

By Maj. David Simons
386th AEW Public
Affairs

For Senior Airman Patricia Rojero, being part of the fitness staff at "The Rock" gymnasium at a forward deployed air base in Southwest Asia is more than the glamour life of working in the area's number one workout facility. It is a matter of life and death.

She knew that before the base commander told her so, and every officer and enlisted person who have attended the mandatory "Right Start" briefing. The commander's remarks are really a motivational sermon

that every job is important on an expeditionary air base.

"It is the Airman at the base gym who provide and maintain the workout equipment, who allow aircrew members to work out, thus keeping them in peak flying condition," said Col. Mike Keltz, 386th AEW commander. "Should they have an in-flight emergency, they have the strength, mental and physical, to overcome the problem, thus saving the aircraft and crew."

Airman Rojero volunteered for this deployment.

"I chose this assignment because it was going to test

my inner will, to determine what I can and could take," said Airman Rojero. "When I leave, I hope to have more confidence in my abilities and to consider myself a stronger person."

Her Services job allows her to help schedule some of the fun events at the Rock. The 5-K fun runs, the bench press competitions and aerobics classes all fall under her specialty.

The El Paso, Texas native is pushing back her start at college. Upon her return to the 302nd Air Wing, a C-130 Reserve unit stationed at Peterson AFB, Colo., she will attend the University of Phoenix, majoring in criminal justice while specializing in anti-terrorism.

Senior Airman Patricia Rojero signs out a basketball to a base gym patron at a forward deployed location in Southwest Asia. Photo by Airman 1st Class Amanda Hall



Davis-Monthan Airman in Sonoran Spotlight



(Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member — officer, enlisted or civilian — of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base., Ariz.)

This week's Sonoran Spotlight is Staff Sgt. Samuel Hubbard of the 355th Services Squadron. Sergeant Hubbard is the lodging front desk supervisor.

Why did you join the Air Force?

I joined to serve my country and see the world.

What has been your best assignment and why:

Soesterberg Air Base, Netherlands. I was able to play tackle football there.

If you were a recruiter, what would you tell people about the Air Force?

As a member of the Air Force you have an opportunity to be part of the best team in the world.

What is the best advice you have received in the Air Force?

Take advantage of the school opportunities we have as Air Force members.

Your most memorable moment in the Air Force?

Finally getting to my first base. I looked toward the sky and said, "This isn't Eloy, Ariz., that's for sure!"



By Lee Schwabe
Air Force Services Agency Marketing office

News & Views Personality Profile

Jenny Burgess – Artist, animal welfare worker

Jenny Burgess, graphic artist for the Air Force Nonappropriated Fund Purchasing office, devotes her off-duty time to organizations such as the Animal Rescue Connections. Here she prepares to transport several stray cats for neutering or spaying. Photo by Lee Schwabe

By day, Jenny Burgess uses her artistic talents to serve the Air Force Services Agency. Evenings and weekends she works to reduce the stray animal problem.

Ms. Burgess is the graphic artist for the Air Force Nonappropriated Fund Purchasing Office at Air Force Services Agency headquarters in San Antonio, Texas. She produces graphics for advertising materials, contract catalogs, product bulletins, flyers, and more. When she joined the AFNAFPO team, one of her first jobs was to redesign their website. She worked with Ronn Greer and the Agency web team to achieve a similar look and feel to the AFSVA websites. She also stays busy doing vendor packages for trade shows and is currently designing large displays boards for trade show booths.

"I like the work," Ms. Burgess said, "because no one day is ever the same as any other day. I tend to be a non-routine person. It keeps me interested and busy."

Originally from just outside of London, Ms. Burgess trained as a teacher and taught for 10 years in England. She apprenticed as a sign writer. From there, her career journey took her through proofread-

ing and typography and into advertising and marketing. Prior to coming to the Agency, Ms. Burgess worked in printing and publishing at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Previous to that, she was doing the same thing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

"Throughout my life I've been very lucky to rub shoulders with people who had skills that I didn't have and would magnanimously share their experience," she said.

Outside the Agency, Ms. Burgess is known for her work to end the stray animal problem in the area. Animals have been a concern since childhood. "From childhood, I've been interested in animal welfare," Ms. Burgess said. "I grew up in a family with tons of animals and was taught from an early age to be responsible for animals."

When she moved to San Antonio, she noticed the problems of stray cat over-population. Putting the problem in perspective, Ms. Burgess said, "A female cat can have four litters a year. An average size litter is six kittens and every female kitten can start breeding at four months. Suddenly you're knee-deep in cats."

The answer to this problem is spaying and neutering. She started getting involved on her own and formed Animal Rescue Connections. Later, she met other like-minded people and has become affil-

iated with other groups, such as the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition. She now serves on the board of this group and trains others in the use of humane traps. In addition, Ms. Burgess volunteers for the mobile clinic offered by the Spay and Neuter Assistance Program, which makes these services available to low income families.

Ms. Burgess recounted a recent example of the work of a group of volunteers. "In one colony there were 68 cats of varying ages," Ms. Burgess said. "We got a group together, rounded up as many traps as we could, and trapped every night for two weeks." The cats that were friendly were neutered, given medical attention and given homes. The kittens were tamed and found homes. The ones not suitable for house pets were neutered and returned to the environment they considered home. There is a caretaker who watches over them, feeds them, and sees to it that new cats that join the colony get fixed. "From that original 68 cats," Ms. Burgess said, "the colony is now 28 cats, all fixed, all healthy, all have had rabies shots, and deal with rodents in the area."

All this outside work keeps Ms. Burgess busy. "I want to thank my husband," she said, "because without his love and support I wouldn't be able to do this."

AF team takes silver in 2005 men's soccer

The Air Force Soccer team took second place in the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Soccer championship, a double round-robin tournament conducted at Naval Base San Diego, Calif., Jan. 24 to Feb. 1.

The Air Force's first game was a 2-1 victory over the Navy. Although the Air Force team missed a lot of scoring opportunities in the first half, the team went ahead 1-0 on 1st Lt. Britton Miller's (Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.) goal. The Navy scored a goal with

20 minutes left, and the 1-1 score stood until the final two minutes, when a Navy defender tackled Lieutenant Miller in the goal box. Lieutenant Miller was awarded a penalty kick, which he placed perfectly in the right corner of the net, for a final 2-1 score.

The second day of games opened with the Army versus the Air Force. The Army scored first. The Air Force's 2nd Lt. Paul Gagliardi (Columbus AFB, Mo.) scored on a header with two minutes left in the half.

Lieutenant Miller opened the scoring in the Air Force's third game, but the Marine Corps tied the Air Force five minutes later. Just before the half, Lieutenant Gagliardi put the Air Force up 2-1. The Marine Corps scored the games final goal at the 80-minute mark. Standings going into the rest day were Army 2-0-1, AF 1-0-2, Navy 1-2-0 and Marine Corps 0-2-1.

The Navy and the Air Force opened the fourth day of play. The Air Force started the game with two quick goals (Capt. James Burgener, U.S. Air Force Academy and Staff Sgt. Patrick Nichols, Ramstein Air Base, Germany). The Navy had some excellent scoring opportunities stopped by outstanding goal play from the Air Force's keeper Capt. Rich Cullen (USAF).

After a second-half goal by the Navy, Captain Burgener and Tech. Sgt. James Royston (McChord AFB, Wash.) closed out the scoring for a 4-1 win over Navy.

The following day the tournament deciding game was played between the Air Force and the Army. The Army scored first, but Lieutenant Gagliardi tied the game at the half. The Army scored a goal with 10 minutes left in the game for a final 2-1 victory.

The Air Force finally opened up in



Second Lt. Eric Sharp, Moody Air Force Base, Ga., maneuvers the ball between two defenders. Photos by Staff Sgt. Ty Reyes

their last game. Lieutenant Gagliardi and Airman 1st Class Brian Bauer (Grand Forks AFB, S.D.) scored first half goals. Sergeant Royston, Lieutenant Miller, Airman 1st Class Laawah Souh (Pope AFB, N.C.), and Lieutenant Burgener scored goals in the second half for a final 6-0 shutout. The Navy won the tournament's final game, a 1-0 score over the Army.

The final standings were Army 4-1-1, Air Force 3-1-2, Navy 3-3-0 and Marine Corps 0-5-1.

Lieutenant Burgener and Captain Cullen,

along with four Army, two Navy and three Marine Corps players, were named to the All Tournament team.

Four Air Force players (Lieutenant Burgener, Airman Bauer, Senior Airman Quincey Collins, RAF Mildenhall, and 1st Lt. Terrance Welliver, Yokota AB, Japan) were named to the combined Armed Forces Men's Soccer team that will advance to Canada for the Regional Conseil International du Sport Militaire Regional Championship, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Feb. 14 to 25.



Senior Airman William Schorg from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, dribbles the ball.

Pro wrestling show pumps up Yokota

By T.D. Flack
Stars and Stripes Pacific edition

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Senior Airman Timothy Keel was in his glory Saturday night, impressed that the fine arts finally had made it to Yokota.

Granted, Saturday's performance included a blood-spattered ring, 280-pound men leaping through the air to smash each other with vicious kicks and elbows and an audience that reveled in talking trash to the performers from the safety of the stands.

"This is like watching the theater," Airman Keel said during an

intermission of the International Championship Wrestling matches at Yokota's Taiyo Recreation Center. "This is the greatest entertainment ... an art form."

It was a typical night of professional wrestling, with good body-slamming evil. The "bad guys" taunted fans, playing particularly on U.S. patriotism.

A tag-team pair of Canadian brothers, Shane and Shannon, blasted the Americans in the crowd, saying they were upset that the Canadian national anthem wasn't played.

"Look at a map," one shouted over the boos. "Canada's up here

and the U.S. is down here. You'll always be below us."

But when "good guy" Virgil entered the ring to wrestle "Doink the Clown," he grabbed the microphone and sent out his own message to "thank the Air Force, all the great women and all the great men."

Saturday's show, provided by the 374th Services Division, was part of a whirlwind Yokota tour. The wrestlers signed autographs and ate lunch with residents, talked to American Forces Network's "Traffic Jams" afternoon radio program and held a second performance Sunday afternoon.

Football Frenzy winners attend Super Bowl, Pro Bowl

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services
Agency Public Affairs

Sixteen military members and guests returned from Jacksonville, Fla. and Super Bowl XXXIX and from Honolulu, Hawaii and the NFL Pro Bowl recently, singing praises not only for the experience and also for Air Force Clubs.

"Clubs provide an attractive and convenient home away from home," said Master Sgt. David Alderman, who attended the Pro Bowl. "Socializing with friends

makes it easier to cope with life anywhere." Sergeant Alderman is a career-long club member, and is currently a member of the Osan Air Base, Korea, Enlisted Club.

Even though he works shifts, he still managed to participate in the Football Frenzy program. He became one of about 150 people who have won free tickets to either the Super Bowl, the Pro Bowl or a selected NFL game during the last 10 years. He and a guest received six days and five nights in a

Honolulu hotel, airline tickets, game tickets, a rental car and the opportunity to tour the local area as well as attend the game.

Retired Tech. Sgt. Wallace Kirk, member of the Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Enlisted Club, started playing Football Frenzy last year. "Clubs are a positive attraction for retirees," he said.

The Football Frenzy program is run every year in Air Force Clubs. Members enter drawings while watching NFL games with fellow fans in

the local club. Not only are there local winners, but also eight military members win Super Bowl, Pro Bowl or NFL game tickets, and can bring a guest along for the festivities.

After returning from the Super Bowl, Senior Airman Richard Jordan, a member of the Hickam Tradewinds Enlisted Club in Hawaii, indicated his appreciation for Air Force Clubs. "Clubs are very beneficial, with great benefits that really do come back to members, and are a good investment overall,"

he said. "They provide a great outlet for social life."

Staff Sgt. Michael Wilson is a member of Kline Brogle Air Base, a small, consolidated club in Belgium. "Clubs are warm, friendly, meet-and-talk-with-friends-and-coworkers places," he said.

Nancy Fugate is a two-time winner in Football Frenzy.

She and her retired master sergeant husband, Randy, returned from the Super Bowl and said, "Clubs are our way of life. It's our 'Cheers.' We're there to enjoy our extended family."

Youth fitness builds healthier brains

By Theresa Amlong
45th Services/SVK

Recognizing that many studies have found that students involved in athletics generally have higher grades and standardized test scores than their non-active peers, the Air Force has put a priority on youth fitness. As part of this fitness initiative, two individuals contracted to train Air Force Youth Programs personnel on the importance of movement in the learning process recently conducted training sessions at the Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Center.

Jean Blaydes Madigan is a neurokinesiologist, an educational consultant who shows how brain research supports the need for movement in learning and how movement enhances learning. Ms. Madigan presented a workshop titled "'Thinking on Your Feet'" in January to 45th Services Youth Programs staff at Patrick AFB.

Ms. Madigan used rhythm, motor skills and eye fitness activities to get the heart and brain working together. "Certain kinds of exercise can produce chemical alterations that give us stronger, healthier, happier brains," she said. "A better brain is better equipped to think, remember and learn."

Shafeqah Abdullah, School Age Child Care counselor said, "It (the class) kept you busy and energetic. I plan to use these activities during Power Hour (a home work study group). It gets the kids moving around after they've been sitting awhile so they can be more focused when they go back to their home-work."



Jean Madigan, far right, leads 45th Services Youth Programs staff in rhythmic activities they can use to enhance the brain power of children in their care. Photo by Theresa Amlong

Next up was Sandy "Spin" Slade, who presented her program "Basketball and Fitness Skillastics." During this workshop, attendees learned ways to make fitness fun. Skillastics games are based on a simple over-sized game board that enables every child, no matter his or her skill level, to participate. The Fitness Skillastics game is broken into components offering various levels of flexibility, cardiovascular and muscle endurance, and the Basketball Skillastics breaks skills into small non-threatening steps.

"This program gives all kids a feeling of confidence," said Ms. Slade, a world-renowned basketball entertainer, clinician and speaker. "When kids are not athletic, they shy away from competitive sports. Skillastics activities are non-competitive and help kids develop self esteem so they become more athletic. Military bases all over the country are purchasing this program for their kids. It's exciting to create something that makes instructors' jobs easier."

"Ms. Slade's workshop provided us with fun, innovative games and ideas using sports skills to teach fitness to kids," said Teresa Andrews, Youth Programs Director. "Both workshops brought home that fitness stimulates our brain."

School Age Counselor Hazel Corbin took part in the Skillastics program "I didn't want to participate at first, as I have never played basketball," she said. "I learned there are a lot of things I never thought I could do. I can't wait to do these exercises with the kids."

"We can take these activities that we have learned and keep these programs going at the Youth Center where all children can benefit from fitness," said Ms. Andrews. "Our staff is eager to begin using these programs and we are looking into purchasing extra copies that volunteers and coaches can sign out to use when they are working with children. These action-based activities are also fun. After all, playtime is what being a kid is all about."

49th SVS knocks out 49th CES, 68-53 SVS moves on to base championship

By Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Services team stood their ground Monday night with a 68-53 win over the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron in the semi-final round of the 2005 Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. intramural basketball playoffs.

After two turnovers in the beginning of the game, CES scored first for an early lead.

Services forward Oliver Martin answered with a three-pointer, followed by layups supplied by teammate Derrick Walker. Martin shot another three to give SVS the lead 17-7.

Down by 10, CES's John Sellers sank a three pointer followed up by guard John Patterson with a layup for a five-point run.

SVS called timeout to regain their momentum and fired back with another three-pointer by Martin. Forward Lewis Christopher put away two shots for a 16-point run. SVS moved into the half up 37-21.

Tensions ran high as a determined CES team was ready to move into the championship bracket. They continued to fend off SVS.

SVS's Martin and forward Antuione Clowers opened up a three-pointer shooter's club with back-to-back-to-back long shots to push SVS ahead 58-31.

Even with the cards stacked against them, CES continued to fight back with a late rally at the end by

Patterson with dual layups and a forced foul shot. But the late rally wasn't enough to get this ball club closer to the championship.

SVS signed, sealed and delivered the semi-final contest 68-53.

SVS's Oliver Martin had 19 points for the evening to be the game's high scorer.



49th Services Squadron forward Oliver Martin presses for a layup against 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's John Patterson. Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Late-breaking news

49th SVS falls in final round

Rhonnell Singleton, 49th Services Squadron forward, rolls under the basket for a lay up past 49th Maintenance Squadron center Akenty Frazer Feb. 22 at the Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Fitness and Sports Center. Both teams vied for the intramural basketball championship, but MXS came out on top 53-43.
Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier



AF runner earns bronze at Armed Forces Cross Country championships

Special Agent Jaime Flood, Sembach Air Base, Germany, won the only medal for the Air Force at the 2005 Armed Forces Cross Country Championship, a bronze medal in the Women's Long Course (8K) with a time of 32:29.6. She finished this event behind the Army's Michelle Kelly (31:02.2) and the Navy's Kimberly Fagen (31:12.8). Other team scorers for the Air Force were Lara Coppinger, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., who finished sixth with a time of 33:07.6, and Capt. Brenda Schrank, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio,

who finished seventh with a time of 33:12.7.

Army Sergeant Sandu Rebenciuc finished 16th overall in the Men's Short Course (4K) and first for the Armed Forces with a time of 12:11.9. The Navy's Aaron Lanzel took second in the Armed Forces Championship with a time of 12:24.6, while teammate Billy Herman was third (12:53.4). Scoring for the Air Force in this event was 1st Lt. Jason Schlarb, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., who was fourth with a time of 13:10.4, and teammate Capt. Nicholas MacFalls, Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif., who

was sixth with a time of 13:20.7.

The final event of the championship was the Men's Long Course (12K). The Navy's Lieutenant Jon Clemens (39:45.0) finished 32nd overall and first for the Armed Forces Championship. The Army won the silver and bronze medals in this event with Ryan Kirkpatrick's time of 40:46.2 and Scott Goff's 41:19.5. Second Lt. Levi Severson, Hanscom AFB, finished fourth with a time of 41:25.5. Other Air Force scorers for the Air Force in the Men's Long Course were Lt. Col. Mark Cucuzzella, Buckley AFB, Colo., eighth

with a time of 42:16.2 and Tech. Sgt. Michael Mann, USJFCOM/JWFC, Suffolk, Virginia, 10th with a time of 421:36.2.

The Army won the 2005 Armed Forces Cross Country Championship team event. The races were run on grassy hills, in light rain on the first day, with temperatures in the 40's. All runners found themselves adjusting to the tough course conditions, particularly as the course muddied up from earlier events. Overall team totals for the Armed Forces Championships were Army 4 hours, 5 minutes, 52.7 seconds; Navy

4 hours, 9 minutes, 19.6 seconds; Air Force 4 hours, 11 minutes, 38.9 seconds; and the Marine Corps 4 hours, 23 minutes, 7 seconds.

The Armed Forces Cross Country Championship was conducted as part of USA Track & Field's National Winter Classic, Feb. 10 to 13, in Vancouver, Wash..

The Armed Forces final results are determined by adding the raw times of the top two men in the short (4K) course, the top three women in the long (8K) course, and the top three men in the long (12K) course.



Junior hoop stars dribble away

From left, Thomas Taglieri looks for an open teammate to pass the ball to while Michael Martin and Zacharey LaCross try to defend the ball during a recent basketball game at the Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Youth Center. Sports available at the center include basketball, football, baseball, softball and volleyball.

Photo by Joel Martinez.

Harlem Ambassadors bring a little 'Majic' to Kadena



Fans line up to receive autographs from the team. Photo courtesy Kadena Services

By Catherine Lane
Kadena Air Base,
Japan, Services
Marketing

Service members and their families were treated to a pre-Christmas treat when the Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Team performed at the Falcon Fitness Center recently.

More than 350 people attended the free show, which featured basketball tips, player and audience participation and a friendly game against the Kadena Base team.

Star of the Ambassadors team

was Lady Majic, who interacted heavily with the crowd. Along with playing basketball, she also danced and played games with audience members. At one point in the show, she had anyone who wanted to, join

her on the floor to perform the Electric Slide. Col. Ross Roley, 18th Services Squadron commander, was one of the many who joined in the fun.

At the end of the evening, Lady Majic and the Ambassadors presented Col. Richard Zink, 18th

Wing vice commander, with a basketball from the game.

Capt. John Strauss of the 353th Operations Support Squadron, who danced with Lady Majic said, "She was a wonderful person and a very good dancer!" Another attendee, 11 year old Darren Roberson, who was picked to participate in one of the games with the Ambassadors said, "It was fun and I would like to do it again!"

This was the Ambassadors second visit to Okinawa.

Rockies visit Buckley

By Master Sgt. Jim Randall
460th Public Affairs

Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. people had a rare opportunity to meet Colorado Rockies baseball players and coaches Jan. 28 at the High Frontier Dining Hall.

The visit was part of the Rockies' "2005 Winter Caravan," an eight-day tour of schools and military bases across the Front Range Jan. 22-29.

Pitchers Joe Kennedy, Jamie Wright and Javier Lopez, infielder Greg Norton, coaches Walt Weiss, Jamie Quirk, Mike Gallego, Rick Matthews, Mark Strittmatter and Mike Hamilton, along with Drew Goodman from Fox Sports News and KOA radio's Jack Korrigan attended the event. The group had lunch, answered questions and signed autographs at the dining hall from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

"I think it's fantastic that the Rockies came out here to spend time with us," said Col. Martin Whelan, 460th Space Wing vice commander.

"This was a great chance for me to meet Walt Weiss and get his autograph," said Brad Buchanan, an attorney adviser at the 460th legal office. "Eleven years ago, I took my son to a Rockies game where he caught this ball. Today, my son is a sophomore at the University of Colorado in Greeley. Now that it's signed, I'm going to give it to him on his 21st birthday in August."

"It's fun for us to meet the military," said Walt Weiss, batting coach. "We're going to be busy soon getting ready for this season. There's usually only a day or two between the end of spring training and our first game."

In addition to autographs, fans also got some inside information about this year's Colorado Rockies lineup.

Eielson youth achieves fitness goals

**By Connie Storch,
Marketing Assistant**

Alexandria Martinson frequently visits the Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska youth center with family members or on her own.

Recently, in a booth at the youth center's snack bar, legs curl-ed beneath her, paperback in hand and microwave pop-corn within reach, Ms. Martinson seemed to be an island of calm. She was unwinding after school, homework finished and the afternoon stretching before her. It's difficult to imagine her as one of the most active young people on Eielson, but it's soon evident that "active Alexandria" deserves a little down time.

When she arrived at Eielson last summer, Ms. Martinson didn't waste time; she immediately enrolled in the Pacific Air Force Program for youth, Fit to Win, F2W. By setting goals early, she was able to achieve the highest participation levels the pilot program

had to offer. She earned incentive prizes along the way, including the grand prize at the end of the fitness incentive program. The grand prize was a giant stuffed teddy bear, about as tall as the 12-year-old daughter of Lt. Col. David Martinson.

She was determined to win the F2W bear from the start. "I set the goal of reaching 1,200 points," she said, so her name would be entered in the drawing. "I think this program is a great incentive to get kids interested in exercise."

The F2W online program is similar to the Air Force's FitLinxx. The web-based program assists youth in logging and tracking their physical activities as well as awarding incentive points for those activities. Points may be traded for prizes such as a water bottle, a wristband or a t-shirt, all with F2W logo, of course.

Youth programmer, Tika Brinkley, described Alex as "out-going, very

active and involved. She's here almost every day."

The seventh grader ticked off a list of her favorite activities, bowling, swimming with the base youth team, basketball, dodge ball and sledding, all of which she carefully logged into the F2W system, often with her mother by her side.

Sarah Nolin, Eielson youth sports director, said the F2W program is designed to encourage youth to try activities like dancing, hiking, even jumping rope. Ms. Nolin said that F2W "encourages healthy nutritional habits and offers points for staying away from junk food and eating balanced meals. F2W participants are very enthusiastic about the new prize incentives for this year."

"The center recently hosted a sports clinic and had more than 50 participants," Ms. Nolin said. "Teen youth center members volunteered to assist with the clinic and basketball

coaches stepped up to mentor the young ones, too."

Different activities are offered every week in the youth center. An F2W player earns five points by joining in a weekly program, and a whopping 20 points for monthly events. In the months ahead, F2W events will include a pentathlon with modified events like the vertical jump and sit ups, a Field Day, Extreme Biking and Aqua Adventures.

The active Ms. Martinson has set

goals for the year, and has already accumulated around 500 points. That would place her at the Extreme F2W participation level, with three of the five program's completed.

She's well on the way to "master" level, which requires 600 points. Top-level participants earn more than 1,000 points. She is looking forward to accomplishing those goals.

Clearly, young Ms. Martinson is no couch potato.



Alexandria Mortinson accumulated F2W points by shooting hoops in a recreational youth league at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Here she practices on the court. Courtesy photo

Lackland to get \$5.8M fitness center

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

Breaking a sweat is no sweat here.

Thanks to the 37th Services Division Fitness and Sports program, the largest in the Air Force, Airmen at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, are "Fit to Fight" and keep their competitive juices flowing.

The Lackland Training Annex will get a state-of-the-art fitness center following a \$5.8M project awarded December 2004.

The new building will feature an NCAA regulation basketball court, a free weights/resistance machine room, a cardiovascular conditioning room, men's and women's locker rooms with saunas, group exercise rooms and a juice bar.

"The new amenities will draw people to the center," Fitness Operations Director Richard Brown said. "The more they use it their fitness goals will be enhanced."

The approximately 30 thousand square foot facility is scheduled for a February 2006 opening. It replaces the current fitness center that since 1952 has been serving what formerly was called the Medina Training Annex.

Lackland Services operates six fitness centers. Each one offers cardiovascular and strength training equipment, two areas of the basic fitness program triad. The third is stretching. The Bennett, Chaparral and Lackland Training Annex fitness centers have courts for basketball and racquetball. The Warhawk, Lackland's oldest fitness center built in 1941, houses basketball and volleyball courts while the Gillum, on Security Hill, has racquetball courts.

Among the more than 40 outdoor athletic venues under the 37th Services umbrella are 11 walking/running tracks or courses, ranging from one-quarter mile to 5 miles in length, and strategically located on base.

Thirty-five free, group fitness classes are offered Monday through Saturday at the Gateway and Gillum locations plus Monday through Friday at the Warhawk.

Workout regimens include circuit training, kick boxing, cardio kick boxing, power pump, step aerobics, step/tone, turbo step, step/body ball, spin, Yoga/pilates, step X-tra, power cycling, step/power pump, step conditioning, power yoga, hi-low aerobics and yoga strength.

Aerobic classes are provided for individual needs instead of unit sponsored activities.

Athletes of all skill levels can find their competitive niche in the 37th Services Sports Program.

"The backbone of the program is the Sports Advisory Council," Varsity Sports Director Steve Reichert said. "It's Lacklanders, assigned by their respective commanders, to be their unit point of contact for sports. Every organization has a primary and an alternate POC.

Their primary responsibility is to relay sports program information to their unit. They also select coaches, help recruit players and form teams in the various sports."

Units compete in the intramural leagues. If a person's organization does not field a team, the athlete can fill out a player pool release form, signed by their sports advisory representative and commander, which frees that player to be picked up by another team.

Lackland has intramural leagues in basketball (Men and Over-35 divisions), bowling, flag football, golf, slow-pitch softball (Men, Women, Recreation, Over-35 and Co-ed divisions), volleyball (Men, Women and Co-ed divisions) plus a tennis tournament.

"Our objective is to create leagues where players can compete with their peers, thus creating parity," Base Sports Director Jerry Tiger explained. "For the most part we're on the right track."



Dorm 2009 rolls to DW2 title

Jim Walker, 37th Services Division Social Recreation director, readies racers, from left, Master Sgt. Rita Felton, Senior Airman Sossie Mekerdijan and Airman 1st Class Lisa Shelton for the start of the Dorm World 2 Battle of the Dorms tricycle rally Jan. 29.
Photo by Alan Boedeker.



By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

Perseverance paid off for the residents of Dorm 2009.

Riding their momentum from winning the Ropes Course Challenge in November and the Bowling Challenge in December, this collection of Airmen whose common thread was an address, negotiated a demanding tricycle rally and a scavenger hunt Jan. 29 to claim the Lackland Dorm World 2 Championship.

Dorm World 2 is the Air Education and Training Command initiative promoting camaraderie, community involvement and a competitive outlet

for its bases during the holiday season.

The local finale, a.k.a. the Battle of the Dorms, also had hula hoop and sponge fencing competitions staged at the Kelly Field Gateway Valley Golf Course parking lot.

"What made it click was how fast these 'dormies' got their chemistry working," 37th Services Division event coordinator Tom Lynds said. "Dorm 2009 just could not be beat."

The winning quartet of Senior Airman Sossie Mekerdijan, plus Airmen 1st Class Ofelma Navarro, Tiffany Hatcher and Lisa Shelton rode tricycles made for children ages 3-5 through a course set

up with cars. The object was to make one loop and survive.

"It was hilarious watching them trying to peddle with their knees in their chins," Mr. Lynds recalled. "2009 did rock."

What earned them the DW2 title was their performance in the Scavenger Hunt, one of the competition's required events.

Each dorm was given a list of 10 riddles representing places on Lackland, and a camera to record their visit there. The groups were given 90 minutes to finish, none did. Dorm 2009 had the most places correctly identified.

It was the second win in the competition for Airmen Mekerdijan and Navarro, who teamed with three others to capture the Bowling Challenge.

The 37th Civil Engineer Squadron Zone 6, the reigning base dodge ball champs, edged a combined team from Dormitories 2011 and 2013 to take the DW2 Dodge Ball Challenge.

Besides bragging rights for the next year each member of Dorm 2009 gets a tee-shirt while the dorm receives a plaque to display in the day room and all its dwellers get a free party at the Teen Center complete with food and a D.J.

Dormitory residents kept earning Dorm World points between events through the Congressional Award Program. CAP, the highest honor bestowed on young adults by Congress, recognizes achievement in volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration activities.

Community service projects were available through the holidays at the Youth Center.

Laughlin dorm residents enjoy 'wacky' time during competition

**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
47th Flying Training
Wing Public Affairs**

Fun, food and good competition brought dormitory residents out in February to take on each other in the final events of this year's Dorm World 2 Challenge at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

Dorm World, an Air Education and Training Command initiative, is an annual event that provides permanent party dorm residents an opportunity to compete in a series of contests against other dorms for prizes.

Participants from Laughlin's two dorms, Bldgs. 255 and 256, battled

each other in the variety of events.

With support from the 47th Services Division and Top Three members, challenges consisted of a scavenger hunt, tug-o-war and a wacky Olympics. The wacky Olympics highlighted the competition, which included balance beam and water bucket brigade contests, an egg toss event and a shopping cart race.

Bldg. 255 won the tug-o-war, but Bldg. 256 had the upper hand in the scavenger hunt and wacky Olympics,

resulting in an overall tie.

The deciding factor came down to volunteer hours.

After tallying the results of those who turned in the amount of time they volunteered, Bldg. 256 ended up as the overall winner.

The top prize is a party for the winning dorm, which will include a live disc jockey and a video screen. The dorm runner-up will also be able to join the party when it takes place here.

"We will have a combined party for the dorm residents," said Staff Sgt. Amanda Corpin, assistant dorm manager. "We don't have all of the details yet, but planning will begin soon."

The benefits of the Dorm World competition varied for those who participated.

"All of the things they had us do were really fun," said Airman 1st Class Heather Kerr of Dorm 255. "The

Dorm World competition gave us a chance to work together a little more with other (squadron members), and it gave us a chance to meet the newer dorm residents."

Airman Kerr, of the 47th Communications Squadron, said the overall competition was fair and allowed people at each activity to choose who wanted to participate.

She added that this type of event helps to bring the morale up in the dorms.

"The better you know people, the more you feel comfortable in the environment you are in," she said. "You



Contestants in Dorm World 2 Challenge at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, strain during the tug-of-war competition

don't feel the need to stay cooped up in your room all the time."

Airman Kerr said the Dorm World challenge was an awesome idea.

"I hope they keep doing it," she said. "Just keep up with ideas that keep young adults like us interested."



It was a wet world during the Dorm World 2 Challenge at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.



Contestants held onto their hats, or helmets, during the shopping cart race.